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Page 1 of *	17		EXCHANGE COM STON, D.C. 20549 orm 19b-4)	File No.* S	SR - 2015 - * 028 mendments *)
Filing by	Financial Industry Regu	latory Authority				
Pursuant	to Rule 19b-4 under the	Securities Exchange	Act of 1934			
Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2)	* Section	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
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	proposed change pursuant	to the Payment, Clear Section 806(e)(2) *	ing, and Settlement	Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap to the Securities Exch Section 3C(b)(2)	-
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First Nan	ne * Racquel		Last Name * Rus	sell		
Title * Associate General Counse		ounsel				
E-mail *	E-mail * racquel.russell@finra.org					
Telephon	/\	Fax (202) 728-8264	1			
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information * clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Add Remove View Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Transcripts, Other Communications documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working. **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part Add Remove View of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial

amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

- (a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), ¹ Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to amend FINRA Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities) to extend the Tier Size Pilot, which currently is scheduled to expire on August 14, 2015, until December 11, 2015.
 - (b) Not applicable.
 - (c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

At its meeting on December 7, 2010, the FINRA Board of Governors authorized the filing of the proposed rule change with the SEC. No other action by FINRA is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The operative date of the proposed rule change will be August 14, 2015.

3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Purpose

FINRA proposes to amend FINRA Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities) (the "Rule") to extend, until December 11, 2015, the amendments set forth in File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058 ("Tier Size Pilot" or

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¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

"Pilot"), which currently are scheduled to expire on August 14, 2015.²

The Tier Size Pilot was filed with the SEC on October 6, 2011,³ to amend the minimum quotation sizes (or "tier sizes") for OTC Equity Securities.⁴ The goals of the Pilot were to simplify the tier structure, facilitate the display of customer limit orders, and expand the scope of the Rule to apply to additional quoting participants. During the course of the pilot, FINRA collected and provided to the SEC specified data with which to assess the impact of the Pilot tiers on market quality and limit order display.⁵ On September 13, 2013, FINRA provided to the Commission an assessment on the operation of the Tier Size Pilot utilizing data covering the period from November 12, 2012 through June 30, 2013.⁶ As noted in the 2013 Assessment, FINRA believed that the analysis of the data generally showed that the Tier Size Pilot had a neutral to positive impact on OTC market quality for the majority of OTC Equity Securities and tiers; and that there was an

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74927 (May 12, 2015), 80 FR 28327 (May 18, 2015) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2015-010); see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67208 (June 15, 2012), 77 FR 37458 (June 21, 2012) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058, as amended).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65568 (October 14, 2011), 76 FR 65307 (October 20, 2011) (Notice of Filing of File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058).

[&]quot;OTC Equity Security" means any equity security that is not an "NMS stock" as that term is defined in Rule 600(b)(47) of SEC Regulation NMS; provided, however, that the term OTC Equity Security shall not include any Restricted Equity Security. See FINRA Rule 6420.

FINRA ceased collecting Pilot data for submission to the Commission on February 13, 2015.

The assessment is part of the SEC's comment file for SR-FINRA-2011-058 and also is available on FINRA's website at: http://www.finra.org/Industry/Regulation/RuleFilings/2011/P124615 ("Pilot Assessment").

overall increase of 13% in the number of customer limit orders that met the minimum quotation sizes to be eligible for display under the Pilot tiers. In the 2013 Assessment, FINRA recommended adopting the tiers as permanent, but extended the pilot period to allow more time to gather and analyze data after the November 12, 2012 through June 30, 2013 assessment period. On January 29, 2015, FINRA further extended the Pilot period to permit FINRA and the Commission to consider the implications of the data collected since June 30, 2013. FINRA has reviewed this post-June 30, 2013 data, and believes that the impact described in the 2013 Assessment has continued to hold (and has improved in certain areas).

The purpose of this filing is to extend the operation of the Tier Size Pilot until December 11, 2015, to provide FINRA with additional time to finalize its recommendation with regard to the Tier Size Pilot.

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The operative date of the proposed rule change will be August 14, 2015.

(b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁹ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 70839 (November 8, 2013), 78 FR
 68893 (November 15, 2013) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2013-049).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74251 (February 11, 2015), 80 FR 8741 (February 18, 2015) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2015-002).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(6).

must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. FINRA also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(11) of the Act. Section 15A(b)(11) requires that FINRA rules include provisions governing the form and content of quotations relating to securities sold otherwise than on a national securities exchange which may be distributed or published by any member or person associated with a member, and the persons to whom such quotations may be supplied.

FINRA believes that the extension of the Tier Size Pilot until December 11, 2015, is consistent with the Act in that it would provide the Commission and FINRA with additional time to determine whether the pilot tiers should be made permanent.

4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

FINRA does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(11).

7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for</u> Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) or Section 19(b)(7)(D)

FINRA has designated this rule filing as non-controversial under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹¹ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder. FINRA asserts that the proposed rule change: (1) will not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, (2) will not impose any significant burden on competition, and (3) and will not become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate. In addition, FINRA provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. FINRA notes further that, because all over-the-counter quotations on an inter-dealer quotation system are currently subject to Rule 6433, the proposal to extend the Pilot maintains the status quo. Accordingly, FINRA has designated this rule filing as non-controversial under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁴ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder. FINRA has designated this rule filing as non-controversial under

FINRA requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative waiting period contained in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act.¹⁶ FINRA requests this waiver so that the proposal may become effective and operative upon filing with the Commission pursuant

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

^{13 17} CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁷ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁸ Waiver of the 30-day operative delay will allow FINRA to extend the Pilot by its expiration on August 14, 2015. Waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest for the reasons described above.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rule of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

Not applicable.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register.

Exhibit 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2015-028)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Extend the Tier Size Pilot of FINRA Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on , Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 under the Act,³ which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities) to extend the Tier Size Pilot, which currently is scheduled to expire on August 14, 2015, until December 11, 2015.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA's website at http://www.finra.org, at the principal office of FINRA and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, FINRA included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. FINRA has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

- A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u>
 Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change
- 1. Purpose

FINRA proposes to amend FINRA Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities) (the "Rule") to extend, until December 11, 2015, the amendments set forth in File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058 ("Tier Size Pilot" or "Pilot"), which currently are scheduled to expire on August 14, 2015.⁴

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74927 (May 12, 2015), 80 FR 28327 (May 18, 2015) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2015-010); see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67208 (June 15, 2012), 77 FR 37458 (June 21, 2012) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058, as amended).

The Tier Size Pilot was filed with the SEC on October 6, 2011,⁵ to amend the minimum quotation sizes (or "tier sizes") for OTC Equity Securities.⁶ The goals of the Pilot were to simplify the tier structure, facilitate the display of customer limit orders, and expand the scope of the Rule to apply to additional quoting participants. During the course of the pilot, FINRA collected and provided to the SEC specified data with which to assess the impact of the Pilot tiers on market quality and limit order display. On September 13, 2013, FINRA provided to the Commission an assessment on the operation of the Tier Size Pilot utilizing data covering the period from November 12, 2012 through June 30, 2013. As noted in the 2013 Assessment, FINRA believed that the analysis of the data generally showed that the Tier Size Pilot had a neutral to positive impact on OTC market quality for the majority of OTC Equity Securities and tiers; and that there was an overall increase of 13% in the number of customer limit orders that met the minimum quotation sizes to be eligible for display under the Pilot tiers. In the 2013 Assessment, FINRA recommended adopting the tiers as permanent, but extended the pilot period to allow more time to gather and analyze data after the November 12, 2012 through June 30,

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65568 (October 14, 2011), 76 FR 65307 (October 20, 2011) (Notice of Filing of File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058).

[&]quot;OTC Equity Security" means any equity security that is not an "NMS stock" as that term is defined in Rule 600(b)(47) of SEC Regulation NMS; provided, however, that the term OTC Equity Security shall not include any Restricted Equity Security. See FINRA Rule 6420.

FINRA ceased collecting Pilot data for submission to the Commission on February 13, 2015.

The assessment is part of the SEC's comment file for SR-FINRA-2011-058 and also is available on FINRA's website at: http://www.finra.org/Industry/Regulation/RuleFilings/2011/P124615 ("Pilot Assessment").

2013 assessment period.⁹ On January 29, 2015, FINRA further extended the Pilot period to permit FINRA and the Commission to consider the implications of the data collected since June 30, 2013.¹⁰ FINRA has reviewed this post-June 30, 2013 data, and believes that the impact described in the 2013 Assessment has continued to hold (and has improved in certain areas).

The purpose of this filing is to extend the operation of the Tier Size Pilot until December 11, 2015, to provide FINRA with additional time to finalize its recommendation with regard to the Tier Size Pilot.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The operative date of the proposed rule change will be August 14, 2015.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,¹¹ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. FINRA also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(11) of the Act.¹² Section 15A(b)(11) requires that FINRA

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 70839 (November 8, 2013), 78 FR 68893 (November 15, 2013) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2013-049).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74251 (February 11, 2015), 80 FR 8741 (February 18, 2015) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2015-002).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(6).

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(11).

rules include provisions governing the form and content of quotations relating to securities sold otherwise than on a national securities exchange which may be distributed or published by any member or person associated with a member, and the persons to whom such quotations may be supplied.

FINRA believes that the extension of the Tier Size Pilot until December 11, 2015, is consistent with the Act in that it would provide the Commission and FINRA with additional time to determine whether the pilot tiers should be made permanent.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

FINRA does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁴

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
 SR-FINRA-2015-028 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

Send paper comments in triplicate to Robert W. Errett, Deputy Secretary,
 Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2015-028. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website

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(http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FINRA. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2015-028 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. ¹⁵

Robert W. Errett

Deputy Secretary

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EXHIBIT 5

Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

* * * * *

6000. QUOTATION AND TRANSACTION REPORTING FACILITIES

* * * * *

6400. QUOTING AND TRADING IN OTC EQUITY SECURITIES

* * * * *

6430. OTC Equity Quotation Requirements

* * * * *

6433. Minimum Quotation Size Requirements For OTC Equity Securities

Every member entering quotations in any inter-dealer quotation system that permits quotation updates on a real-time basis must enter and honor those quotations for at least the minimum size defined in the table below. In this regard, it is the member's responsibility to determine the minimum size requirement applicable to its quotation. Depending on the price level of the quotation, a different minimum size can apply to each side of the market being quoted by the member in a given security.

Price (Bid or Offer)	Minimum Quote Size		
0.0001-0.0999	10,000		
0.10-0.1999	5,000		
0.20-0.5099	2,500		
0.51-0.9999	1,000		
1.00–174.99	100		
175.00+	1		

• • • Supplementary Material: -----

.01 The amendments set forth in File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058 shall be in effect until [August 14, 2015] <u>December 11, 2015</u>. If the pilot is not extended or approved as permanent by this date, the version of this Rule prior to SR-FINRA-2011-058 shall be in effect.

* * * * *